

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A concentrated network interconnection control system ~~provided in a network which provides connections between a plurality of user networks,~~ comprising:

a plurality of interfaces connected to individual user networks ~~for transmitting and receiving~~ configured to transmit and receive packets;

a network interconnection controller ~~providing~~ including a plurality of control function parts, each control function part independently provided for each a respective pair of user networks and defining rules for connections between one of terminal addresses in one of said pair of user networks and one of terminal addresses in another one of said pair of user networks; and

a function association selector ~~for associating~~ configured to associate each interface to ~~either one of the plurality of control function parts,~~ said function association selector including

a function managing table configured to store an association between each interface and a corresponding one of the control function parts,

an identifier imparting part configured to retrieve an identifier from the function managing table, the identifier identifying the corresponding one of the control function parts associated with a first interface that has received a packet, and configured to impart the identifier to the packet,

a function selector configured to transfer the packet to the control function part identified by the imparted identifier, and

an output interface selector configured to select a second interface corresponding to the identifier imparted to the packet, via the function managing table, and configured to deliver the packet to the selected interface.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A concentrated network interconnection control system according to Claim 1, in which the concentrated network interconnection control system represents ~~a concentrated firewall equipment, and in which the function association selector comprises:~~

~~a function managing table for managing a relationship between each interface and corresponding one of the control function parts;~~

~~an identifier imparting part for retrieving an identifier for the control function part which corresponds to the interface that has received a packet from the function managing table and for imparting the identifier to the packet;~~

~~a firewall function selector for transferring the packet to the control function part which corresponds to the imparted identifier; and~~

~~an output interface selector for retrieving an interface which corresponds to the identifier imparted to the packet from the control function part from the function managing table and for delivering the packet to the corresponding interface.~~

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A concentrated network interconnection control system according to Claim 4, ~~in which~~ wherein the network interconnection controller contains a firewall table including pairs of sender and receiver terminal addresses for each pair of user networks, a direction of transfer between each pair of interfaces corresponding to

each pair of sender and receiver terminal addresses, and a connection control indicating whether a connection between each pair of sender and receiver terminal addresses is enabled or rejected.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A concentrated network interconnection control system according to Claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the concentrated network interconnection control system is a concentrated address translation system, ~~and in which the function association selector comprises:~~

~~a function managing table for managing a relationship between each interface and corresponding one of the control function parts;~~

~~an identifier imparting part for retrieving an identifier for the control function part which corresponds to the interface which has received a packet from the function managing table and for imparting the identifier to the packet;~~

~~an address translation function selector for transferring the packet to the control function part which corresponds to the imparted identifier; and~~

~~an output interface selector for retrieving an interface which corresponds to the identifier imparted to the packet from the control function part from the function managing table and for delivering the packet to the corresponding interface.~~

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A concentrated network interconnection control system according to Claim 6, ~~in which~~ wherein the network interconnection controller contains

~~an address translation table including a pair of a terminal address in one of a pair of user networks which is to be translated and a translated address, and~~

a direction of transfer between corresponding interfaces associated with respect to each of the identifiers.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A concentrated network interconnection control system according to one of Claims 1, ~~2, 4~~ and 6, ~~in which~~ wherein the function association selector and the network interconnection controller are formed by devoted logic circuits.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A concentrated network interconnection control system according to one of Claims 1, ~~2, 4~~ and 6, ~~in which~~ wherein the function association selector and the network interconnection controller are implemented in a software which is executed by a computer.